

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY S/S:FVORTIZ:JW

APPROVED BY S/S:FVORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 103894 TOSEC 110359

NODIS

FOL REPEAT BEIRUT 3827 SENT ACTION SECSTATE APR 29

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3827

NODIS

DEPT PASS SECRETARY IN KINSHASA

DEPT FOR ATHERTON AND DEAN BROWN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE

SUBJ: LEBANESE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

REF : BEIRUT 3822

1. JUMBLATT SOURCE INFORMS ME THAT DISCUSSIONS THIS AFTERNOON
BETWEEN SARKIS AND JUMBLATT WENT VERY WELL. DIFFERENCES ARE REALLY
IN FIELD OF PERSONALITIES RATHER THAN PRINCIPLES.

2. SOURCE MAINTAINS THAT BRIEF DELAY BEYOND MAY 1 DATE NEEDED

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FOR ARRANGING SOME FACE-SAVING PROCEDURE. DOES NOT BELIEVE MAY 1

DATE CAN BE KEPT. JUMBLATT IN POSITION TO CREATE SECURITY
SITUATION UNFAVORABLE TO ELECTIONS ON PROJECTED DATE AND INTENDS
TO DO SO. (I AM UNFORTUNATELY OBLIGED TO AGREE WITH THIS JUDGMENT.)

3. IN SOURCE'S VIEW, KEY LIES WITH SYRIA. IF SYRIA COULD INVITE
JUMBLATT AND HANDLE HIM PROPERLY, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN
JUMBLATT'S CONCURRENCE FOR SARKIS.

4. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT SARKIS IS PASSING THIS MESSAGE
ON TO SYRIA. HOWEVER, SOURCE PLEADED FOR ANY ASSISTANCE WE
MIGHT BE IN A POSITION TO RENDER WITH RESPECT TO ENCOURAGING
SYRIANS ALONG SUGGESTED LINES. STREAM OF COMMENTS AGAINST JUMBLATT
BY LOCAL BAATS REPRESENTATIVE KANSO HAVE INFURIATED JUMBLATT AND
AND ANTI-JUMBLATT REMARKS IN KUWAIT BY KHADDAM HAVE MADE
MATTERS EVEN WORSE.

5. I QUESTIONED SOURCE ABOUT WHAT KIND OF DELAY JUMBLATT HAD IN
MIND. HE REPLIED THAT IT WAS LESS THAN A WEEK. I RECALLED JUMBLATT'S
REMARKS ABOUT THE POSSIBLE ILLEGALITY OF PARLIAMENTARY ACTS
AFTER MAY 2. HE SAID THAT JUMBLATT WOULD NOT HAVE RECOURSE TO THIS
LINE OF ARGUMENT IF THE DELAY WERE ARRANGED.

6. SOURCE STRESSED THAT FATE OF COUNTRY DEPENDED ON AGREEMENT
AMONG GEMAYEL, JUMBLATT AND THE SYRIANS. (IT WOULD BE
DIFFICULT TO FAULT THIS BELIEF TO ANY GREAT EXTENT.) GETTING
GEMAYEL TOGETHER WITH JUMBLATT THEREFORE WAS ALSO AS IMPORTANT
AS GETTING JUMBLATT TOGETHER WITH THE SYRIANS. HE ASKED FOR
ASSISTANCE IN A JUMBLATT-GEMAYEL GET-TOGETHER IN ADDITION TO WHAT
WE COULD DO VIS-A-VIS SYRIANS.

7. I WAS OF COURSE NON-COMMITTAL IN EACH CASE. SAID I WOULD REPORT
OUR TALK. CAN OBVIOUSLY DO NOTHING ABOUT SYRIANS BUT WILL SEE
TO IT DISCREETLY THAT GEMAYEL GETS THE MESSAGE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, SECURITY, CAT-C, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL LEADERS, MEETINGS, LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, ELECTION CANCELLATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE103894
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: FVORTIZ:JW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: N760003-0557
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976046/aaaaaetx.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 76 BEIRUT 3822
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <13 OCT 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, LE, SY, (JUMBLATT, KAMAL), (SARKIS, ELIAS), (GEMAYEL, PIERRE)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006